

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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P R 300911Z DEC 76
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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 308
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 18720

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, IN
SUBJECT: GOI SEEKS FOREIGN TECHNICALKNOW-HOW/EXPORT MARKET FOR
ALUMINA

1. BASED ON THE RECENT EAST COAST BAUXITE DISCOVERIES, GOI PLANS TO ESTABLISH TWO EXPORT ORIENTED ALUMINA PLANTS OF 0.6 MILLION METRIC TON CAPACITY EACH IN ANDHRA PRADESH AND ORISSA. THE TOTAL COST OF THE PROJECT, INCLUDING A CAUSTIC SODA PLANT WHICH WOULD SERVE BOTH ALUMINA PLANTS, IS ESTIMATED AT DOLS780 MILLION. THE EAST COAST BAUXITE DEPOSITS ARE MAINLY OF A GIBBSITE TYPE WITH MINOR AMOUNTS OF LIMONITE AND GEOTHITE CALLING FOR SPECIAL PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY. THE RESERVES ARE CURRENTLY ESTIMATED AT OVER ONE BILLION METRIC TONS WITH THE A12O3 CONTENT RANGING BETWEEN 45-51 PERCENT. THE DEPOSITS ARE LOW IN SILICA AND TITANIA, BUT HIGH IN IRON.

2. THE GOI WOULD PREFER A TIE-UP WITH A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ALUMINUM COMPANY THAT COULD PROVIDE (A) THE TECHNOLOGY; (B) A LONG-TERM MARKET OUTLET FOR INDIA'S ALUMINA; AND (C ALUMINUM IN EXCHANGE FOR ALUMINA. THE IMPORT OF MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT RE-
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QUIRED FOR THE PLANTS MAY ALSO BE PERMITTED.

3. IRAN AND USSR ARE REPORTED TO HAVE EVINCED INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT PROPOSAL. PRIVATE SECTOR COMPANIES, WHICH HAVE THUS FAR SHOWN PRELIMINARY INTEREST IN THE PROPOSED VENTURE, INCLUDE REYNOLDS, KAISER (US), ALCAN (CANADA), V.A.W. (WEST GER-

MANY), AND PACHIMEY (FRANCE).

4. PRESENTLY PUBLIC SECTOR BHARAT ALUMINIUM COMPANY LIMITED (BALCO) IS THE ONLY MANUFACTURER PRODUCING ALUMINA FOR EXPORT. ALUMINA PRODUCED BY OTHER PLANTS, ALL IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, IS PRIMARILY CONSUMED IN THE PRODUCTION OF METAL BY THESE PLANTS, NEW DELHI A-150 AND A-171 CONTAIN DETAILS ON THE EXISTING BAUXITE, ALUMINA AND ALUMINUM FACILITIES IN THE COUNTRY.

5. COMPANIES INTERESTED IN OBTAINING ADDITIONAL PROJECT DETAILS SHOULD CONTACT: MR. A.N. BANNERJI, CHAIRMAN-CUM-MANAGING DIRECTOR, BHARAT ALUMINIUM COMPANY LIMITED, F-41 NDSE PART I, NEW DELHI -110049.SCHNEIDER

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